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Agenda item 67

African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Sylvester Ekundayo **Rowe** (Sierra Leone)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty" was included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 54/48 of 1 December 1999.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2001, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 4 October 2001, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 64 to 84, which was held at the 3rd to 11th meetings, from 8 to 12 and from 15 to 17 October (see A/C.1/56/PV.3-11). Thematic discussions on the items were held, and draft resolutions were introduced and considered, at the 12th to 17th meetings, from 22 to 24 and on 26, 29 and 30 October (see A/C.1/56/PV.12-17). Action on all draft resolutions was taken at the 18th to 24th meetings, on 30 and 31 October and on 2, 5 and 6 November (see A/C.1/56/PV.18-24).

4. No documents were submitted for consideration under this item.

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/56/L.9 and Rev.1

5. At the 12th meeting, on 22 October, the representative of the Sudan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States, submitted a draft resolution entitled "African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)" (A/C.1/56/L.9).

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6. At its 21st meeting, on 2 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/56/L.9/Rev.1), submitted by the same sponsors, in which the fifth preambular paragraph, which read:

> "*Welcoming* the outcome of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and noting, in particular, the importance of concerned States taking steps to bring into effect the assurances provided by nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties and their protocols",

was deleted.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/56/L.9/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 8).[1]

III. Recommendation of the First Committee

8. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/48 of 1 December 1999 and all its other relevant resolutions, as well as those of the Organization of African Unity,

Recalling also the successful conclusion of the signing ceremony of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)[2] that was held at Cairo on 11 April 1996,

Recalling further the Cairo Declaration adopted on that occasion,[3] which emphasized that nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in regions of tension, such as the Middle East, enhance global and regional peace and security,

Noting the statement made by the President of the Security Council on behalf of the members of the Council on 12 April 1996,[4] in which it was stated that the signature of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty constituted an important contribution by the African countries to the maintenance of international peace and security,

Considering that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in the Middle East, would enhance the security of Africa and the viability of the African nuclear-weapon-free zone,

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[1] The delegation of Spain subsequently indicated that it did not participate in the consensus on operative paragraph 3.

[2] See A/50/426.

[3] A/51/113-S/1996/276, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1996*, document S/1996/276.

[4] S/PRST/1996/17; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1996*.

1. *Calls upon* African States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)[2] as soon as possible so that it may enter into force without delay;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the nuclear-weapon States that have signed the Protocols that concern them, and calls upon those that have not yet ratified the Protocols concerning them to do so as soon as possible;

3. *Calls upon* the States contemplated in Protocol III to the Treaty that have not yet done so to take all necessary measures to ensure the speedy application of the Treaty to territories for which they are, de jure or de facto, internationally responsible and which lie within the limits of the geographical zone established in the Treaty;

4. *Calls upon* the African States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[5] that have not yet done so to conclude comprehensive safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency pursuant to the Treaty, thereby satisfying the requirements of article 9 (*b*) of and annex II to the Treaty of Pelindaba when it enters into force, and to conclude additional protocols to their safeguards agreements on the basis of the Model Protocol approved by the Board of Governors of the Agency on 15 May 1997;[6]

5. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency for the diligence with which they have rendered effective assistance to the signatories to the Treaty;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty".

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[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

[6] International Atomic Energy Agency, INFCIRC/540 (Corrected).